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THE
Last Years Transactions
VINDICATED
FROM THE
ASPERSIONS
Cast upon them in a
LATE PAMPHLET
ENTITLED,

*Reflections upon the Occurrences of the Last
Year, from Novemb. 5. 1688. to No-
vemb. 5. 1689. &c.*

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To the Right Honourable

CHARLES

EARL of SHREWSBURY,

Principal Secretary of State, &c.

MY LORD,

TO whom can I better Address
a Vindication of the last
Years Transactions, than to
a Personage who has Acted so Great and
Noble a Part in them, and who has
Entailed upon him a rare piece of Hap-
piness of being loved by all Parties?
Since then, Your Lordships Conduct has
placed you out of the Road of Malice it
self;

The Epistle Dedicatory.

self; It's but Reason you allow your Patronage to what's Written in Defence of others, that meet not with the same good Fortune from the World. And thence it is, that I expect Your Lordships Pardon for this Address of

MY LORD,

*Your Lordships most Humble,
and Obedient Servant:*

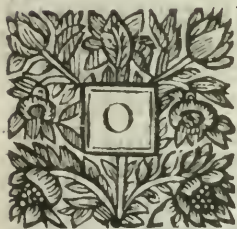
THE

T H E

Last Year's TRANSACTIONS

VINDICATED,

From the Aspersions cast upon them in
a Late Pamphlet, &c.



OF a great many *Maxims of State*, by which the *Republick of Venice* has supported it self, amidst the *Revolutions of Twelve hundred Years*, this is none of the least, That to *Pry too narrowly into the Secrets of the Government*, or to *throw dust upon the publick Actions of the Senate*, tho' under pretence of giving counsel, is a crime punishable in a private person with death. The nature and safety of the *Body Politick*, requires a secrecy in the actings of those at the Helm; and that Government was never happy or long-liv'd, where all the *Springs of its Motion* were laid open to the View of the Vulgar. Without this *Seal of Secrecy*, the greatest Designs, tho' never so well laid, have proved but Abortive; and the deepest Contrivances, even for the good of the State, if once taking vent, they vanish into Smoak.

The open and bare-fac'd *Transactions* of the last Reign, as they evinc'd the weakness of the Government, and yet by discovering

the imminent Ruin that threatned us, put us upon means for our Delivery; so the same openness of Counsels, which occasion'd so good an effect *then*, has brought along with it since, this accidental inconvenience, That we expect to read the designs and methods of the present Government, with the same easiness we did those of the last. King *James's* Counsels were too Transparent, not to be seen through by the weakest eye; and because he render'd the very *Modest* Politicians, by making all the World acquainted with his unsteady Measures; we must now forsooth pretend to the same freedom, under the Reign of one of the closest Princes that ever sway'd the *English* Scepter.

Of this kind of folly, we have a fresh instance in a late Pamphlet, intituled, *Reflections upon the Occurrences of the last Year, from November 5. 1688, to November 5. 1689, &c.* Wherein the Author, as from the *Delphian Tripes*, and animated with an Enthusiasm like to that which attended the delivery of the fallacious Oracles of old, rushes into the Mysteries of State, turns *Casualist, Critick, Divine, Lawyer, and Statesman*, all at once; and in each of these Capacities, gives a convincing proof to mankind, how unsafe it is to wander beyond our proper Sphere. To censure not only the Politick, but Religious Actions of *Kings, Parliaments, Privy-Counsellors, Ministers of State, Clergy, Generals and Officers of Armies*, and to dictate to them their respective duties, with an *air de seign*, is a Province never man attempted before him, and which none but the Author, or a *Visionair*, and pretender to an Enthusiastick Illumination, would have ventur'd their Credit upon: And indeed there are so many expressions all along the Pamphlet, that smell of the late deluded Notion of Inspiration, such as these, *Not to be learned in Schools, but taught of God, A child of Light; Not having the good Spirit; The attainment of Personal Perfection*; and a great many others of that kind, that I am willing to impute our Author's Indiscretion, not so much to ill nature, or want of kindness to his Majesty, as to an eccentric Zeal, push'd forward by what the Quakers call an *Impulse*.

One would have thought that the Character His Majesty has acquir'd in the world, of a *Steady, Close, Brave, and Just Prince*, long before he came to deliver an ungrateful Nation: And that the inimitable Conduct by which after the opposition of a powerful

erful Faction in his Minority, he had attained to the highest Place, in the Power and Affections of a Neighbouring *State*, even beyond that of his Glorious Ancestors, and had render'd himself the Center of all the Motions abroad, that tended to the Liberty and Safety of *Europe*: One would have thought, I say, That those bright Jewels might have dazled an inferior Spectator with their Lustre, and at least, have secured His Majesty from a great many Reflections in this Pamphlet; the mentioning which in any other Place of *Christendom*, yea, even in *France* it self, would have been rewarded with Contempt and Hate, and the fairest Quarter the Author might expect, would be, to be treated as a Melancholly deluded Person.

The Author has expos'd himself to a severer Answer than I am willing to give him: And the rather, because the King by a Prodigy of good Nature has laid aside the Resentment such a Pamphlet would have met with in any Reign but *His*: And where the King forgives, it's ill manners to stint the Royal Bounty, by ill Treating the Criminal. Hence it is, that laying aside all bitterness against the Author, I shall confine my self to the Particulars most material in his Book, without giving my self, or the Reader, the trouble of taking notice of a great many other things therein, which neither need, nor deserve to be mentioned.

Neither need I repeat what our Author tells us in his first three Pages, *Of the Wonderful Deliverance of this Kingdom from the Spanish Invasion, Anno 1588. nor of the Gun-Powder-Treason; some seventeen years thereafter; nor shall I trouble the Reader with a Repetition of the wonderful Steps of Providence our Author acknowledges to have concurr'd in His Majesties Descent into England, and in His Attaining the Crown.* These things are so conspicuous in themselves, that they admit no further Lustre either from his Pen, or mine. In short, these three Kingdoms saw themselves upon the Brink of Ruin, their Rights and Liberties invaded, their Religion within an ace of being overturned, their Laws and Constitutions renters'd, the whole Scheme of their Ancient Government unking'd: And to compleat their Misery, they saw no probable way of escape. His present Majesty, in the time of this Abyss of our Woes,

liv'd Happy and Great in a Mighty State, where the Affections of the People, and the Power entrusted him, render'd him equal to Kings; and where, free from the pompous Weight and Pageantry of a Crown, His Figure in *Christendom*, and his universal Influence on its Motions, came nothing short of *those* who wore one.

Thus it was with *Us*, and thus was it with the then *Prince of ORANGE*, when our Prayers, Tears, and repeated Sollicitations, forc'd him from a People, who paid him the highest, and the most grateful Veneration; and obliged him to break off a long Tract of unenvied Glories on the *Continent*, that he might at the hazard of all that could be dear to him, attempt the delivery of these two *Islands*, and that in the worst Season of the Year, from a Fate that seem'd to any Soul less Great than His, to be irretrievable. The incident Circumstances that attended him in his *Descent into England*, in the *pannick Flight of King JAMES from Salisbury*, the *inglorious manner of that Prince's Abandoning his Kingdoms*; and in the *unanimous Addresses made His present Majesty*, first to *Accept the Government*, and thereafter the *Crown*, carried along with them evident Prints of a Divine Influence, beyond the beaten Path of humane Affairs.

But our Author comes to tell us, page 5. That *after all this successful Progress, our Affairs are now at a stand, and move but slowly, like a bewitched Cart he has heard of, that at first, was easily drawn, but of a sudden became immovable.* How silly are Mens Apprehensions, when they will needs meddle in Matters foreign to their *Genius*, or *Station*? The Author resembles exactly a weak-witted Passenger, that had never been at Sea before; when shut up under Hatches, he fondly imagines the Ship not to move, because all things within the narrow Compass of his View, continue still in the same Position. But in the mean time, the Pilot and Sea-men on the Deck, without being at Pains to undeceive him, are putting all the Secrets of their Art in practice, towards the forwarding the Vessel through the Waves to the Harbour. Because the confined Sphere, in which our Author moves, allows him not the Knowledge of Affairs of State, and that his short line cannot Sound the bottom of His Majesties Counsels, he fondly concludes

concludes, That certainly the *Machine* of Action is stop'd, since he comes not to be acquainted with all the hidden *Springs* of its motion.

Notwithstanding that the Transactions at the Council-board, and those which Reason and Policy keeps hid from common view, be beyond the reach, or at least out of the road of private men; yet I must say, a man must be both deaf and blind, that observes not our Affairs going on every day, in a method agreeable to the Concurring Emergents, and such as must naturally attend a Kingdom upon the back of so surprising a *Revolution*. Does there a day pass, without some one step or another, in order to the compleating our settlement, either in the *Parliament-House*, at the *Council-Board*, or in Cultivating our *Alliances* abroad, and concerting measures with our *Confederates*? God Almighty when he Created the *Universe*, was pleas'd to do it by degrees; And that Immense Being, who could have heap'd up Millions of Worlds in a moment, thought fit to bestow six days in the Creation of *One*, that thereby he might teach Man a Copy of an orderly and successive progress in human Affairs. But our Author's precipitant Zeal cannot be confin'd to a Copy, though drawn by the Pencil of Heaven; nor to that essential Law of Motion it self, which require a gradual progress: He would needs be at the *Mark* in a moment, without passing the necessary *midt* to it. And a Twelve-months time is but too long, with this hot Politician, to have set at rights Three of the most disjointed Kingdoms this Age has seen; which to have brought the length they are already, all considering Men, some Months ago, did think might take up near half a Jubilee of years. The *Simile* our Author uses of a bewitch'd Cart, favours as much of his unacquaintedness with Philosophy, as the thing he illustrates by it, does his little skill in Politicks: And it's no wonder, that he who is so inclinable to believe a gross Mistake in the Motion of *natural Bodies*, should commit so many in his Reflections on the Motions of the *Body Politick*.

In order to prove that *our Affairs were ill-manag'd immediately after His Majesty's accepting the Government*; Our Author comes in the next page to inveigh against the *delay of settling the Militia, and Justice of Peace through the Kingdom, which*, he says, *was*
not:

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not done a great many months after His Majesty's coming to the Crown. This is a groundless Calumny, and one which all England can disprove. King James having gone away himself, and left behind him an Order for *disbanding the Army*, merely to put the Nation in Confusion, and thereby to *gain his ends of us* (as one of his Favourite Counsellors express'd it) the only means then left us to prevent a destructive *Anarchy*, and our cutting one another's Throats, was to invite our *Deliverer* to accept of the Government in this dismal *Interregnum*, till such time as the *Representatives* of the Nation could meet to provide for the common Safety, by settling a lasting Establishment. His Majesty grants our Request, and falls immediately upon the hardest and greatest Task that ever was put upon a Prince. In short, He had no fewer or easier things to do, than *To issue out Writs to call a Convention*; *To provide Money upon his own Credit*, to pay off a disbanded Army in our Bowels; *To see to our Security against their Attempts*; *To remove such Officers as were not to be trusted*, and to grant new Commissions to those who better deserved them; *To ship off for a Foreign Service the Irish Regiments*, who must either have knock'd us on the head, or been in hazard to be so done with themselves. He had no less to do, than *To keep a watchful eye upon a considerable Party*, who were ready to take the occasion of our unsettled Condition, to embroil us in new Confusions; *To send an immediate Assistance to a Neighbouring State*, not only in execution of the English part in the Treaty of Nimeguen, but in lieu of the Forces the Hollanders had lent him, even then when they needed them most themselves. He had all these things to do, and a thousand others, and in the mean time to manage the important and weighty Character of *Stadtholder*, and *General* of the *United Provinces*, already in war with France; and to concert new Measures with the *Confederates* abroad, King James's unexpected withdrawing, having doubtless altered the Scheme of the old ones; all which pressing Affairs, and the difficulties that attended them, would have sunk with their weight the most firm and resolved mind. Good God! I cannot reflect upon our condition at that time, without Horror and Amazement: If I should compare it to the Confusion at *Babel*, the Comparison would fall far short; for it admits of no Idea from any thing that has hitherto been. But because I know no better, let us
but

but imagine we see before us that *Towering Pile*, which seem'd once to out-brave Heaven, lying now overthrown in Prodigious Heaps and Mountains of Rubbish: All the materials of the Mighty Fabrick are with an afrightful Confusion represented to the eye, and the first *Chaos* seems again to be renewed. Here the Stones, Wood, and Lime; there the Bricks, Iron, and the rest of the disjointed parts that made up the Structure, lie all of them displaced, and yet mix'd together in an astonishing kind of Disorder: And, to add the last stroke to this amazing *Landscape*, let us imagine that some millions of people, concerned in rearing up again this Heap, are all of different Affections and Opinions about the manner of rebuilding it. In this Case, the on-looker would have reason to doubt a possibility of putting this dreadful Wreck of Nature into any method, and would be apt to entail a share of something more than Human upon Him that could set all these disjointed Materials in their proper places together, and erect out of them a Regular Building.

Just so it was, or rather worse, with *England*, upon the late King's withdrawing: The Frame of Nature, as it related to us, seem'd to be dissolv'd; and instead of Government, the necessary Cement of Human Society, we were in a moment resolved into an inexpressible Confusion; and, which added to the seeming impossibility of our Recovery, we were all of us disjointed among our selves, in Interest, Religion, and Opinion. To have settled *Us* within the space of some few days, in that very Order we were brought to when the Convention came to meet, was a signal demonstration of His Majesty's Conduct, and of an application of Mind scarce, if at all, to be equal'd in History.

The *Convention* meets; and it was no wonder so surprizing a *Juncture* should take up all their thoughts, and so much of their time, before they came to a Resolution in the weightiest Affair that could concern a Nation, *viz. The settling of the Crown*. Whatever our Author may fondly think, Crowns are not to be disposed of in a hurry: and the declaring a Throne Vacant, and the filling it up, was so far from requiring less than twenty days, as our Author supposes in his Complaint, *pag. 10.* that it argued the greatest expression of their Gratitude:

tude to GOD, and to the then *Prince of Orange* as his Instrument, the greatest Concern for their Countrey, and the greatest Sense of the Hazard they had partly escaped, and yet partly fear'd, that they came to the *Important Decision* so soon.

But both before and after His Majesty's accepting the Crown, all necessary and just Caution was used in all the Counties of *England*, to prevent any new Troubles, though indeed the Conternation of the Enemy, and the universal Zeal of Friends, rendred that Caution almost needless. Our Author, like one come from another World, and without Acquaintance in This, complains, That for several months there were no Justices of Peace, nor Officers of the Militia settled. Need I to tell him, That in *London*, the Epitome of *England*, and the place of greatest Example and Importance, as likewise in all the other Corporations of *England*, the old Magistrates, who are by their Places *Justices of Peace* within their Towns, were re-instated by King *James* about the time of the Prince's coming over: and so as to *Corporations*, the Civil Authority was lodged in them, whom the Laws before and since have only made capable of it, and the King had nothing to do in the authorising those whom the Laws did authorise to his hand.

As to the naming of *Justices of Peace*, and the Officers of Militia in the Countrey, His Majesty had reason to rest assured of the promises of a great many *Noble Persons*, then attending him from all the Counties of *England*, who had declared for him, and had put the several Counties in a sufficient posture of Defence, and thereby opportunely and successfully exercis'd the Offices of Justices of Peace, and Officers of the Militia themselves, and had commissioned others, for whom they were answerable, to the same effect. Notwithstanding even this assurance those Noble Persons gave His Majesty, of having left the Military and Civil Power in good hands at their coming up to *London*; yet nevertheless, His Majesty, the very day after his accepting the Government, being *December 30. 1688.* put out his Declaration for authorising Justices of Peace, Sheriffs, Officers of Militia, to act till further Order; as likewise, as soon as these above-mentioned Noble Persons their necessary attendance at the Parliament-house could be dispens'd with, His Majesty could not rest satisfied; until he had sent them
back

back to their respective Counties, in order to a more full and legal Settlement of the Justices of Peace and Militia. And so eager were some of these Noblemen in the execution of their Commission, by lodging those Offices in good hands, that they forgot to sue out their own particular Warrants till some while after their return. So that these Noble Persons, their officiating as Lieutenants of Counties without a formal Commission, was a certain Indication, That they burdened themselves with the Security of those Counties; and that they were so intent upon the doing of it, that they could not allow themselves to misemploy any part of that time, in troubling the King with all the Formalities of a *Written Power* for what they did.

Our Author comes, page 6, and 7. to charge the Government with the ill management of the Affairs in Ireland, in that the Arms and Ammunition designed for Londonderry arrived not till March, and the Forces under Richards and Cunningham not till April; That the last, by deserting the Service, proved a Discouragement to the Besieged; and that the Town was not relieved till the 30th of July. And then, in the next Period, he accuses the Government, for not sending over Forces enough to subdue that Kingdom; and that when they were sent, they did not answer the General's expectation, having done no considerable Service by them to this day. Concluding this part of his Charge with our long disappointment of the Danish Forces; and asserting plainly, *They will prove a greater Burthen than Advantage to us.* Behold a dreadful Charge before an imaginary Tribunal! but such a Charge, as to be able to prove it, must require something mix'd to Omnipresence and Omniscience. For to know the truth of all the particular Articles of this Assertion, our Author must be at London, Chester, Highlake, in several parts of Ireland: He must be likewise in Denmark, upon the Sea betwixt Us and It; on the English Channel, and that of St. George's, and a great many hundred other places; and that all at one and the same time. But not only so, but a Man who can know all the Branches of this Charge, must have that Immensity of Knowledge, as to be acquainted with what was

transacted at the *Council-Board*, with every Dispatch sent by, or to the *King, General, Admiral*, and every Officer in the Army; yea, he must claim an acquaintance with the thoughts of Mens hearts, since, without that, he cannot come to know what he tacitly insinuates, *of a wilful Neglect in the Management of Irish Affairs.*

But as to this heavy Charge, which not only the Author, but some other well-meaning People, are apt to swallow down for want of considering; I shall lay before the Reader the following Considerations, by way of Answer to it.

1. I have hinted before at that frightful Confusion we were reduc'd to, upon the late King's *withdrawing*, till His present Majesty was declared King. He had brought over with him but a handful of Men; and those who had declared for him, were for the most part either ill disciplin'd, or dispers'd up and down the Countrey for securing it against the Attempts of those of King *James's Party and Religion.* The Disbanded Army, on the contrary, were well disciplin'd, many of them old Soldiers, and wanted but an opportunity to run to a Head, and were in the mean while ready to pillage the Countrey for the Arrears of their Pay; which they must either have done, or starved: The Fleet was as yet in hands he was not assured of; many of the Officers being King *James's* Creatures, and some of them *Roman Catholicks*, and all of them behind in their Pay.

For the King in such a Juncture to have parted with any of his Forces for *Ireland*, was contrary to all reason; for he must have either parted with *some of those he brought with him*, or with *some of those who join'd him*, or with *some of King James's Disbanded Army.* To have parted with the *First*, whom he had known for a long tract of time devoted to his Interest without Reserve, was indeed to lay himself naked in a strange Countrey, to a People of whose Fidelity He had not yet had time to make trial: and His Majesty acting, as the Law calls it, *qua homo prudens*, could not put himself upon *so unnecessary a piece of Confidence*, to change in so perplexed and dangerous a Juncture, the Forces of whose Fidelity he was fully assured, for *Others*,
that

that had but come in to him the other day, and many of them become of his side as much by the persuasion of their Leaders, as from Inclination; And besides, the Forces His Majesty brought with him, were so few as could not well be divided. To have sent over *some part of the Forces that came in to him*, was both Unreasonable and Impossible. Unreasonable, from what I formerly hinted at, of his not having time to try their Fidelity, or to make choice of Officers to command them. Impossible it was, there being no Money left in the Exchequer to pay them; and to provide at that time so vast a Sum as *their past Arrears, and Transportation, and a Fund for their future Payment*, would amount to, was utterly beyond His Majesty's power to effect. To have sent over into Ireland any part of the Disbanded Army, I hope no man would have approved it; That had been indeed to give them the opportunity of once more trying their Fortune for King James. In fine, from what I have said, it was both Impossible and Unreasonable for His Majesty to send over Forces to Ireland before he was proclaimed King.

2. How much his Majesty was in capacity to relieve Ireland for several months after his coming to the Crown, and what Methods He and his Ministers used to Save that Kingdom, and afterwards to Reduce it, will best appear by a Narrative of the publick Transactions and Circumstances relating to Ireland and Irish Affairs, and leaving the Reader to judge from thence, Whether the Author's Charge be groundless, or not.

Their Majesties were proclaimed on the Thirteenth of February, and the first Money-Bill was not past in Parliament, till the 21st of March; and could not be Levied for a considerable time thereafter; nor did it amount to the half of the Arrears due to the Army and Navy, and other necessary debts. The next Supply was that of the Poll-Bill, past the First of May, which for some Months thereafter was not all got into the Exchequer, and fell far short of the Parliaments Estimation of it. Now notwithstanding of this Slowness in coming in of Money, His Majesty shewed His Earnestness to Relieve Ireland, to that height, as to order Ammunition and Provision to be sent to Londonderry, even before he was Proclaimed King; and thereafter within two weeks after His

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Accession to the Crown, he ordered another Supply of Forces under *Richards* and *Cunningham*, which came to be Shipt in the 3d of *March*; the *First* came in good time; and I need not enlarge upon the Reasons of the Miscarriages of the *Second*; the *Printed Account* by *Mr. Walker*, does it for me; and it's but just that *Colonel Lundie's* own fault should be laid at his own door alone.

The Forces sent with *Richards* and *Cunningham* being thus unhappily returned, His Majesty applied himself in the mean time, to send over a greater Force under *Major General Kirk*, till He should have in readiness a considerable Army to follow them. The Forces under *Major General Kirk* were Shipt for *Ireland* in *May*, and through contrary winds could not fetch the *Lough* below *Londonderry*, till the Fifteenth of *June*, and for Reasons mentioned at length in *Mr. Walker's Account* could not get up to Relieve the Town till the last of *July*.

While these Forces were on their way for Relief of *Londonderry*, His Majesty was incessantly giving Orders to his Army, to march from all Places of *England*, to *Chester* and *Liverpool*, in order to their Transportation under the Command of the *Duke of Schonberg*: And in spite of a Thousand Discouragements not to be here named, the *General* took Journey for *Chester* on the Seventeenth of *July*; and after having taken time to review and give necessary Orders for his Army, he set Sail on the Twelfth of *August*, and Landed at *Bangor* the next day, having some days before, dispatch'd Four other Ships with Provisions for *Londonderry*.

Here we are come to the latter end of *August*, in our Account of the Affairs of *Ireland*; and pray what more could have been done all this time, considering the Circumstances we lay under? After the Landing of the Army, the first Action *Duke Schonberg* fell upon, was the making himself Master of *Carrickfergus*, and of the Countrey about, which he accordingly effected: As to the rest of his Conduct there, we have all the reason in the world to believe, that so great a General knows well on what grounds he has gone; and the event will prove, how much it will conduce to the happy determination of the Affairs of *Ireland*, that the *General* delayed to enter into any further

Action

Action the last Summer, and that he has put his Army in *Winter Quarters*.

As to our Author's Reflection upon our *disappointments in the Danish Forces*, the Gentleman bewrays a gross ignorance in the Affairs of *Europe*. *Seven thousand* men are not so soon agreed for, paid for before-hand, and wasted over an Ocean, as he imagines; especially when the Ministers of the Prince who sends them, are courted with all possible Insinuations to stop them. And I must tell the Author, That it was by an extraordinary stroke of His Majesties Conduct at the Court of *Copenhagen*, these Forces were brought over at all. And it was indeed a *Master-piece* to unite so far, the Jangling Interests of the *Two Northern Crowns*, as to prevail with them to assist him and his Allies, with the same Forces, we once thought should have been employed against them. That the *Danish Forces* are a *Burden to us*, is a Calumny not worth an answer, there being no braver nor better disciplined Forces in *Europe* than they.

From our Affairs of *Ireland*, our Author comes in his rambling way, to reflect upon those at Sea; and tells us, *The two famous Nations for Action at Sea, were not only baffled by the sole Power of France, but that our losses of men by Sickness and Mortality, were greater than by Fight; and in our Merchandize and Trade, greater than our Expences*: and boldly adds, *That our Merchants Ships have been made a prey to those who should have been their Guide and Convoy*. As to the first, That we and the *Hollanders* have been baffled at Sea, is such a kind of untruth, as might be more pardonable in the mouth of a *French Flatterer*, than in an *English-man*. Our *Fleet* has all the last Summer brav'd the *French* on their own Coasts, and provoked them by all possible methods, to come to a Fight; while in the mean time the *French Fleet* durst not venture out of their *Ports*, but by stealth, or when our *Fleet* was elsewhere: And if our Author means, by baffling, the Action of *Bantry-bay*, never was the *English* Courage more transcendant than in that Action, when in spite of a contrary Wind and Tide, Seven or Eight of our Ships fell in with an undaunted Bravery upon the whole *French Fleet*, it being impossible for any more of ours to get up to them; and tho over-power'd with numbers,

bers, we so hotly plyed the Enemy, that they found themselves obliged to stand off to Sea, with a considerable loss, not daring to wait the turning of the Tide for helping up the rest of our Fleet. And perhaps our Author in the whole last Years Conduct, could not have fallen upon a stronger argument than this, to disprove his Insinuation, that his Majesties Forces are become pusillanimous.

No body in their right wits, will charge the Government with *the Mortality in the Navy and Army*, that being an irrefutable Fatality of Nature; and yet there have died more in proportion of the Armies on the *Rhine* and in *Flanders*, than either in our Fleet, or in *Ireland*.

As to *our losses in Trade*, It's a thing could not have been avoided in a War with *France*, Considering *the wideness of the Sea, the impossibility of having Convoys in all places, the small number of French Merchant-Ships, and the great number of Ours*; And that the *English* ever thought the Privateer Trade below them; and that the gain gotten upon the *French* that way, incapable to quit Costs. Notwithstanding this unavoidable necessity of suffering loss by the *French Privateers*, *England* has these thirty and odd years past, always groan'd after a War with *France*; And the Friendship between our two last Kings and *Lewis* the XIVth, was none of the least Grievances of their Reigns. Now we have our *Wilhes*; His Majesty has declared War against *France*, from a Principle of Necessity, and yet not till our Representatives in Parliament had addressed him for it, and promised to assist him in it. How unjust is it then, to grumble at the unavoidable Consequences of a War, which we have so long desir'd, which our Parliament, on mature deliberation, concurr'd in, and to which our own Preservation does necessarily oblige us. And though at present it may bring along with it some inconveniences in *Trade*, yet a happy issue of it will soon set us beyond a regret, for losing a little, to secure the rest, and our Religion and Liberties with it. That which our Author tells us, of *our Merchant Ships becoming a prey to those, who ought to have guarded them*; has no other ground, than the Complaint of some Matters against one

or two Captains of the Fleet, for taking Gratuities upon the account of Convoys: And the Government is so far from allowing it, that there has been a considerable Officer sent to the *Tower* upon it: Though I must tell the Author, that in the Two last Reigns it was an ordinary practice, and no body ever call'd in question for it.

What he complains of in the next Paragraph, of the *bad Condition of the Countrey, by reason of the cheapness of Countrey Commodities*, seems to me a kind of repining against the Bounty of Heaven in filling our Barns with Corn, and our Fields with Beasts. And I must for once assume the province of a Divine, which the Author does so often, to tell him, That nothing but an Infinite Goodness could refrain from an ungrateful Nation, that curse of making our *Havens Brass, and our Earth Iron*; and the rather, when a person of our Author's assum'd Character, dares to charge on the Government as a Grievance, what is the blest effect of a Liberal Providence. *This Condition*, says our Author, *is made harder by Taxes already granted, and more expected*. I cannot admire enough, that one who pretends to have a true sense of the late Hazard we were in, of losing our Religion and Liberties in the last Reign, should seem to repine at the Taxes we have already paid, or may hereafter pay, in order to secure us against the Ruine that then threatned us. I have so much Charity for the Author, as to think, that some two years ago, he would willingly have parted with the best half of his Fortune, to have secured the remainder, and his Religion with it: And indeed the retrieving of our Rights and Religion, cannot be too dear bought, especially when we remember how much vaster sums we have sometimes given, *to render us Slaves*, than we have now given, or are to give, *to make us free*. And when it shall please Heaven to put a period to this War, by a happy and safe Peace, *England* will soon recover the present Expence we are at, in our own defence. In the mean time, Malice it self must confess, that His Majesty's Forces are not burthensome to the Countrey; but being kept under severest Discipline, and continually paid as fast as the Revenue comes in, they as freely

freely expend it again in the Country for their necessities.

Our Author comes next to shew us one of the highest Flights of his new-assumed *Dictatorship*, viz. to arraign before him no meaner Persons than the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, the Knights, Citizens and Burgeesses of the late Convention, and present Parliament. I know not but I may be as blameable in playing the Advocate, or in daring to suppose that the Great Council of the Nation needs a Vindication; as he to play the part of the Judge, or a Plaintiff. But I hope with all the profound deference I owe to that August Assembly, I may beg leave to take notice, in a few words, of the *Articles of Accusation* charg'd on them.

The first is, *the form of the Order for the publick Thanksgiving* after the Convention sat, which, he says, if any one shall presume to execute, he dares be bold to say, He has little sense of the Majesty of God concern'd in it, of the dangerous Consequences of such a fault in the beginning of their Consultations; or what an Indication it was of an unhappy Temper prevalent in that Assembly. What a full bloody Period is here! and how far does our Author's Zeal hurry him! One who had never before heard or seen this Order, would at first dash conclude, That there must be something of a horrid nature couch'd in it, as that must certainly be, which derogates from the Majesty of God; and that there must be some odd piece of a wilful and irreparable mistake, as deserves the rest of the Censure. All I need to do in answer to this, is to give the words of the Order it self, and then let the Reader find out where this imaginary Venom lies. The Order runs thus. *Die 22 Januarii 1688. Order'd by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, That Thursday, the 31st of January instant, be, and is hereby appointed for the City of London, and ten miles distance, for a day of Publick Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for having made His Highness the Prince of Orange, the Glorious Instrument of the Great Deliverance of this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary Power. And that Thursday, the 14th day of February next, be, and is hereby appointed for a Publick Thanksgiving throughout the whole Kingdom for the same.* Thus far the Order; and in what part of it this horrid Fault lies, I confess I am not able to divine.

The

The 2d Article our Author Libels against the *Parliament* is, *the Mismanagement of the Affair of Ireland*; which is but a repetition of the same thing formerly said, and which I hope I have answered. Only I must here add, The Parliament did all was incumbent on them as to *Ireland*; They gave Money for reducing it; they appointed a Committee of their Number for expediting the Affairs; they gave all the Incouragement in their Power to the *General and Army*, to the *Admiral and Fleet*, and interested themselves with the greatest Affections to those who had been forc'd to flee out of that Kingdom.

The next and greatest Matter, as he himself words it, where-with he charges the Parliament, is, *their long debate about the Abdication*. And our new Politician is down-right offended at the Parliament, for finding King James's Departure an *Abdication of the Government*, and tells them Authoritatively, that it should have been declared, a *flight of a Criminal from Justice*. I have before hinted at the unreasonableness of this Complaint as to the length of debate about the *Abdication*; and I must repeat what I then said, That considering the amazing Perplexities and Confusions the Nation was in at that Time, it was rather a wonder that the *Convention* came so soon to a determination in so weighty Affair. For the word *Abdication*, at which our Author is so offended, if he had read any thing of History he should find that it was the most proper and expressible term could be us'd in King James's Case. But I confess, that dreadful word our Author would have put in its room, viz. *the Flight of a Criminal from Justice*, does remove the *Masque*, and tells us plainly of what Principles he is. For we all know what sort of Men they are, who use to talk, of *bringing Kings to Justice*. And considering that our Author bewrays himself to be one of them, I'm the less amazed at his dissatisfaction with a Government so different from his own *Model*.

Having vented this severe Insinuation against the late King, it's but consequential what he talks in the end of this paragraph, of *bringing that King's Counsellors, Actors, and Accomplices, to condign punishment*. This Man would drench the World in Blood, sacrifice whole *Hecatombes* to his Revenge, and once more set these Kingdoms off their Hinges, by a precipitate Method, of *rendring Men desperate*. Mercy is a

Crime with some People, and no Government relishes with them, but such as *Draco's* was, of old, said to be written in Blood. If this Revengeful Spirit be all the effect of our Author's citing so many Texts of Holy Scripture up and down his Pamphlet, he will prove but a bad Commentator on many places of the New Testament; And among a great many Blessings we feel under the present Government, this is one, that the Reins of it are not in the Hands of some such *Phaeton*, who, if once mounted, would certainly set the World in Flames by his fiery Zeal.

But albeit Justice may claim a Victim or two, for the atonement of so much innocent Blood as was pour'd out in the two last Reigns; Why should King James's *Ministers and Counsellours*, all of them, without distinction, fall under the stroke? There are Noble Persons, and others, who sat at the Council-Board, and were in Office the last Reign, who by moderating, as much as possible, severer Counsels; by giving check to the *Romish Jehu's* in their full Carreer; and by keeping their places to serve their Country, when it stood most in need of them; do deserve the return of our Gratitude, and not of Revenge. Yea, it's more than probable, that if some Persons, who fall under the Author's Reflection, had retir'd from Affairs in the last Reign, the predominant Party about that King, had push'd on our Ruin, beyond the possibility of a Retrieve.

Another Article our Author exhibits against the Parliament, and that is, in his own words, *That a great part of the most sober and serious People of the Nation, are kept out of the Service of their Country, and the most debauch'd and profligate let in.* In this I suppose our Author means the *Sacrament-Test*, impos'd by Act of Parliament on those in Publick Employment. To this I need give no other Answer, but that the Parliament knows better than He, on what grounds they pass'd that Act. And though I must acknowledg, that by it there are a great many worthy Persons excluded, who are willing and able to serve the King and their Country; yet it's still a Question, whether at that precise time, it was fit to lay aside a Constitution, that though chiefly design'd against the *Roman Catholics*, affected likewise the *Dissenters*. And whether it be so or not, the Author is not a competent Judg. Here sure our Author may remember, how earnestly his Majesty press'd the Parliam-
ment

ment in one of his *Speeches* to take such Measures, as all *Protestants* might be capacitated to serve him, and the Interest of the Nation : And who knows but the Parliament will alter that Constitution, when they are fully perswaded the Interest of the Kingdom requires it. If debauch'd Persons creep into Employments, under the cover of this Act of Parliament, 'tis not the fault of the Act it self, but of ill Men who abuse it.

In the next Paragraph, our Author sums up the Charge against the Parliament, in asserting, *That they have been always infested with a Spirit of Division, and that they have scarce done one brave or clever Action, nor inquired into the Causes and Authors of our evil Management ever since they met.* What Name to allow this Assertion, I know not ; and to give it a harsher one than it deserves, I cannot : That there should be four or five hundred Men found, exactly of the same Opinion in all Things, is as impossible, as to find out an equal Number, of the same Complexion and Stature : And considering the arduous Affairs have been of late treated of within those Walls, I rather admire their Divisions have not been more. That they have done nothing *Brave* or *Clever*. If our Author understands the word *Brave*, in its proper sense, the Members of Parliament, as in that Capacity, are not called to Fight, but to Consult ; yet there are few of them, whose Character would allow of it, but ventur'd to declare for his Majesty, when none expected the decision of Affairs, but by the Sword. And to take the word *Brave* in a larger sense, the Parliament has done things so *Brave* and so *Great*, as will perpetuate their Memories to all Ages. They have vindicated the Liberties of their Country, against a Prince that had overturn'd the very Foundations of them ; and in the most perplexed Juncture that perhaps *England* ever saw. They justly changed the *Monarch*, without in-croaching upon the *Monarchy*. They have applied the fittest Remedies to the Nature of our Sores, and it's from their Resolutions, and his Majesty's Conduct, we hope to be at length Happy. Our Author fondly concludes, They have not enquir'd into what they judg to be *Mismanagements*, because he has not been glutted with the Blood of the Delinquents ; but our Wise Senate knows better to deal with a *Vitiate Limb*, than to cut it off, when it can be otherwise cured, and the rest of the Body preserved, without the pain of so cruel an Operation.

Having done with the Parliament, our Author makes a Faint upon the *Privy Council* and *Ministers of State*, without naming their Mismanagements: But upon second Thoughts, and out of pure good Nature, he withdraws his Charge for once, and only leaves them to the great Inquest of the Nation. But this lucid Interval serves only to give his *Choler* time to ferment it self into the highest Paroxysm that ever possessed a reasonable Man, and the Effects of it are levelled no lower than at the King himself. I know not which of the Resentments, of *Indignation*, or of *Pity*, this unexampled Attempt calls for, since neither Malice, without a great deal of Ignorance, nor Ignorance without a great mixture of Malice, could prompt a Man to accuse his King of Faults, whereof all Mankind besides will acquit Him: And I look upon it as a singular piece of ill Fortune, that I have occasion to employ my Pen, in but repeating what derogates from so excellent a Prince, though in refusing it.

The first Thing he insinuates against his Majesty, is, *That the loss of this Summer's Assistance to his Confederates, is a great Eclipse of his Majesty's Honour*. What an accountable Ignorance does our Author bewray in the Affairs of *Europe*, as they were stated at the Time when the *Confederates* entred into an Alliance against *France*! The very first Thing occur'd to them in their Consultations about that Alliance, was, *That there could be nothing effectually done against France, as long as there was a King of England ready to espouse his Quarrel, and to support his Interest both by Sea & Land*. To lay aside this so powerful Addition to the French Scale, the *Confederates* resolv'd upon the then Prince of Orange's Expedition into *England*, as the only effectual Means to deprive *France* of the powerful Assistance of that Crown. And indeed this was the only Motive that prevail'd with the *Confederates* of the *Romish Communion*, to consent to a War against King *James* at that time; tho' those of the Reformed Religion had agreed to it, from a more pressing Necessity, as the last Cast of the Dye for the Protestant Interest in *Europe*. Now this Invasion being resolv'd on, the *Confederates* neither thought, nor had they reason to think, but King *James* would have made a more noble Defence in *England*; nor that the Prince of *Orange* could so soon possess himself of the Kingdom, and at the expence

Expence of so little Blood : For upon the contrary, they expected no more at first from the Prince's Descent into *England*, but to make a Diversion of King *James's* Forces from assisting *France*, by giving them work at home; and in so doing they hop'd to gain no inconsiderable Point. But now instead of making only a *Diversion*, the Confederates have already in the first twelve Months time, received more Advantages from his Majesties Expedition, than could have been reasonably expected in thrice the number. Not only has he sent to their Assistance the whole *Quota* of Men, the Crown of *England* was oblig'd to, as *Guarantee* of the *Treaty of Nimeguen* and has added a considerable Reinforcement to the *Imperial Army* in *Hungary* by the Addition of the *Irish Regiments* in King *James's* late Army; all which Men and many thousands more, King *James* would have employed for the French King : But without putting the Confederates to a farthing of Charge, his Majesty has kept a watchful Eye upon the French Fleet, that they could attempt nothing against the *Confederates*, either on the Coasts of *Holland*, *Flanders*, *Spain*, or any where else. Moreover, instead of that Assistance King *James* would certainly have given the French King, if the then *Prince of Orange* had not been successful in his Attempt on *England*; the French King is forc'd to detatch a part of his Army, and to expend vast Sums of Mony upon that unhappy Prince's Affairs in *Ireland*, and in affording his Queen an Equipage in *France*; all which Men and Mony would have been otherwise employ'd against the Confederates. Thus we see how far his Majesty has been able to assist his *Allies*, above what could have been justly expected of him in so short a time : and thence we have a convincing hint of our Author's small Skill in Affairs abroad.

I hope no body will think me oblig'd to trace our Author in all the *Turnings and Windings* of his Pamphlet, from *Pag. 12.* to *Pag. 23.* which for Method and way of Expression, might tolerably pass in a Quakers Meeting, and might qualify one for an Employment among that sort of People. I do not envy him his Talent of applying Scripture up and down the whole Pamphlet, to his own Scheme of Policy, which for the most part are as wide from the purpose, as that politick Gloss of the *Bishop of Beauvais*, who from that Text, *The Lillies do not spin*, wisely concluded, that the Kingdom of *France*, which gives

gives three Lillies for their Arms, cannot fall in Succession to the Female Sex. This part of the Pamphlet is so strangely disjointed, and so foisted up with incoherent Matters, and Repetitions, as indeed the whole is, that I confess my self scarce of it is, First, *A bitter railing against a Learned Person for not giving the King as good Advice in his Closet, as he did at his Coronation.* Secondly, *That it must be some remarkable Sin that has retarded the Progress of our Affairs.* Thirdly, *An Insinuation that the King takes Advice of Flatterers, and that he tolerates Debauchery and Profaneness.* This is the Sum of his long Rapsody of Words.

I need say nothing to the *first*; The singular Learning and Piety of the Person, sets him beyond the reach of Malice it self: And it's the height of Folly in our Author, to charge him with a *Negative*, which of its own Nature cannot be prov'd, nor tho it could, does it admit of any conscious to it, but the King himself.

As to the *second*, *That it must be some remarkable Sin that has retarded our Affairs.* I shall not deny but Sin is the meritorious Cause of all the Evils that befall us in this World: But it's insufferable to hear our Author talk, as if he were upon the Secrets of Heaven, and were acquainted with the Reasons that determine the *Infinite Mind* to do *thus* and *thus*. Although it were true, our Affairs were at a stand (as I have already proved him the contrary); Does the Almighty give account of his Matters? Are not his Ways in the Sea, his Paths in deep Waters, and for his Footsteps they are not known? We ought rather, with a profound Reverence, adore him in his Judgments, than to assume a foolish Confidence in a positive fixing upon such and such particular Motives, that determin'd God to inflict them. Besides, did never our Author hear of the bad Success of a good Cause, and the prosperous Success of a bad one, even when there could be no gross Mismanagement or Failing charg'd upon the former, so unsearchable are the Steps of an unsearchable Providence? Did he never hear of a Cause or Party, that at first seem'd languishing, and ready to expire, which afterwards broke through all Opposition in its way to Triumph? And yet we lie under no such discouraging Providences at this day, as to stand in need of this
last

last Reflection of his: Our Affairs 'going on' in a Progress suitable to the beaten Path of Human Actions.

The *third Head* of his Majesties giving Ear to Flatterers, is a Charge could never have been dream'd of against a Prince, that's so much proof against, and so great a Discourager of that ordinary Bane of weak Souls, and whom to flatter, is the surest way to disoblige. What our Author mentions on this Head, of the several Counsels the Kings of *England* use to consult in their Affairs; never was there any King of *England* who depended more intirely upon the Advice of his Parliament in the most arduous Affairs of his Kingdom, of his Judges in Matters of Law, and of his Privy-Council in the Exercise of his Government: In the *first* he never to this moment, made use of his *Negative*; the *second* he never contradicted by stretching his Prerogative; and without the *third*, he never proceeded in any Affair that of its Nature required it.

I cannot name the fourth Head, *viz.* our Author's accusing his Majesty for *conniving at Prophaneness and Debauchery*, without a just horror of the Accusation: And yet in his canting way he spends a great many words about it. That a Prince whose Reputation in that Point stands untainted by his very Enemies, who never was heard to swear one Oath, and who abhors it in others; whose Court was always distinguish'd from the rest of *Europe* by a Restraint from Vice, peculiar to it self: In fine, that a Prince, who was never stain'd with one publick or known Fault in Himself and Manners, should be blam'd for tolerating Profaneness and Debauchery, exceeds Belief. But, says our Author, *He should have emitted a Proclamation against it, as was couch'd in a Letter sent him.* What the King ought to do, neither the Author nor I am fit Judges; but any body knows how little effect such Proclamations ever had: for where the sense of Duty to God does not deter Men from Vice, a thousand Proclamations will not. This Age has not produced a more profligate Court than that of *Charles II.* and yet how often were there Proclamations issued out against these very Enormities, which were practis'd in the face of the Sun, and wherein the King himself gave the worst Precedent. Upon the contrary, his present Majesty has done more since he came to *England*, to discourage Vice by his own Example, than ever he could have effectuated by a Cart-load of Proclamations;

mations ; and all know, Examples prevail more upon Men than Precepts do, especially where Kings cast them the Copy.

Tho I am very sorry our Author has so much Reason to re-
grate *the Profaneness of our Army*, and that I agree with him
in its being a sign of the greatest Ingratitude to God for his
late Goodness to Us ; yet I must tell him, if he be desirous to
see an Army made up only of Saints, he must seek it in ano-
ther World, and not in this : And if his narrow Sphere al-
lowed him the knowledg of Armies abroad, even in Prote-
stant Countries, he would ever after have better thoughts of
ours. In short, if our Author's Supposition were true, *viz.*
That God gives not Success to vicious Armies ; it must thence
follow, that the Imperial Army in *Hungary*, whom a link of
continued Victories has attended these four Years past, must be
compos'd only of vertuous People ; in which he will find him-
self mightily mistaken, there being many in *England* just now
that will certify to him the contrary.

I judg it's not expected of me, that I should give my self
the trouble to ramble after our Author in his long-winded Re-
flections up and down to the end of his Book, about *the Insti-
tution and Nomination of the Clergy of England*, and what he
calls *the Faction of the Church of England* ; far less that I should
foul my self in the Puddle of his Calummies against some
Prelates and Dignified Persons of that Communion, since these
kind of Subjects are foreign to both his Design and mine, and
is a more proper Province for some of that Reverend Order,
who know best how to defend their own Cause, if it needed
any. And if there be any such Irregularities in the Church,
His Majesty by calling a *Convocation*, has given them an oppor-
tunity to redress them. But to hasten to a Close, there being
little more in the remaining part of the Pamphlet but the Re-
petitions of the same things. Our Author comes in the next
place to blame his Majesty, *for employing these very Persons in
the Government now, who in King Charles II. his Reign were the
Advisers and Managers of illegal Projects*. How far his Maje-
sty is concern'd in this Complaint will appear from the fol-
lowing Considerations.

1. His Majesty has for the most part about him those many
Noble Persons and others, whose Probity and Love to their
Religion, and to the Liberties of their Country, rendred them
odious

odious to the Enemies of both, in the last two Reigns; and whereof not a few were forc'd to abandon their Native Soil, and to seek a Sanctuary elsewhere.

2. Though there should be at present in the Government one or two, who in King *Charles's* Reign might be wrought upon, through the Temptations and Snares of a Court, not to oppose some things that in rigour might be blameable; yet if the same Men afterwards, from a sense of their Error, did designedly work themselves out of Favour, by opposing those Methods then in deliberation to enslave the Nation, it were a palpable Invasion on the King's own Liberty, to deny him the use of such Persons now, especially if their great Parts and Acquaintance with Affairs of State, render them in some measure necessary.

3. Though there should be some Persons now employed, who in any of the two last Reigns had stumbled upon unwarrantable Measures; yet if by their hearty and chearful Concurrence in the late Revolution, or their Influence on the bringing it about, they have testified their sense of former Miscarriages, it's but just their *after-Actions* should atone for the *Former*: And doubtless Repentance with Good Works, should appease the Justice of Man, and re-instate him in his first Integrity, since Heaven it self requires no more.

4. It's time for our Author to pass his Censure upon the King's employing such Ministers, when we have felt these ill Consequences of it, which he names, *viz. the subverting our Liberties*: And I hope his jealousies of them have not come that length, of thinking it possible, that his Majesty can be wrought upon to follow so bad Counsels, though given him; as I am assured there are none about him that would dare to propose any such Advice to Him.

And, *lastly*, may I presume to add, His Majesty came a Stranger to *England*, and but darkly informed of the true *Arcana* of the last two Reigns, and of the Practices and Principles of particular Men; it being so much their Interest to veil them from his view: Whence it is to be suppos'd, that at his coming to the Government, the representation made him of *Persons* and *Things*, could not but receive a tincture of the many different Principles and Interests of those who made them: Considering which, it's no wonder that in such a Maze of Business,

and Mist of various Representations, his Majesty's Bounty might happen to be misplac'd in some One or Other ; and the rather, that a great and generous Soul is willing to put the best constructions on Mankind in general ; and being superlatively vertuous himself, He is apt to allow a share of that Vertue to Others.

This I do not say, as if I thought his Majesty had reason to doubt the choice he has made of any about him ; for I ever disdain'd to imitate the Folly of the *Athenian*, who having desir'd *Aristides* himself to write his Name on the Shell, in order to his Banishment, could give no other Reason for so doing, but because he heard his Neighbours inclin'd to have that Noble Person banished. On the contrary, I have reason to hope, that there are none about his Majesty, who deserve our jealousy : And granting there were any such, we have ground to rest satisfied in this, That a Prince, whose Head in Council, and Hand in War, has given him so redoubted a Figure in *Europe*, will at length find them out : and in the mean time, his Majesty's inexhaustible Stock of Reputation, for Justice and Probity, secures us sufficiently against their ill Counsels, if any such be. Besides, there are so many Great and Noble Persons in the Government, of untainted and unsuspected Reputation, who would undoubtedly defeat the Designs of such supposed ill Men, by their Wisdom and Vigilance.

What our Author advances of his Majesty's *permitting the sale of Offices and Places*, one would be almost inclin'd to think, that our Author had been disappointed in the quest of some Pace, which has imbittered him to conclude, That because a Man of his Merit wanted Success in his Design, Money must be the only Recommendation. This seems very natural : for he who takes it upon him, to approve or condemn as he pleases, the Actions of Kings, Parliaments, Ministers of State, &c. must necessarily have a transcendent Opinion of his own Merit, and think none can deserve a publick Character better than himself. But as to the Calumny it self, all the World knows his Majesty never abas'd himself to make sale of Offices upon his own Account, nor to allow it in others. And if there be any Money given to Servants, by their Master's Clients, on the account of *access* to them, or the like ; this is no more, but what the Customs of all Courts in *Europe* connive at ; and yet, whe-

ther there be any such innocent kind of Gratiuity in use here, I profess my ignorance of it; and for any other kind of sale, I believe our Author, upon search, may find himself mistaken.

Thus have I done with every thing that seems of any Consequence in the Pamphlet it self; for it concerns me not to interrupt him in his haranguing against Vice, nor to do him the displeasure of undeceiving him in the wrong application of his Doctrine. I come now to take a short view of his *Conclusion*, which till the very last Leaf, is but a repetition of his preceding Exstactick Sermon, and merits no farther notice. But after some repeated religious Injunctions to the King, he reasumes the part of a Statesman; and like the Pedant, who would needs talk of War before *Hannibal*, our Author dictates to his Majesty the following *Oracles*.

1. He advises him to take the Advice of his Privy-Council, and not of Private Cabals. His Majesty stands in no need of this Gentleman's Reasons, to perswade him to take advice of his Privy-Council in all Affairs that require their Deliberation, the Experience of the Members of that Honourable Board, evinces his so doing, though he has had the Misfortune not to make choice of them, according to our Author's *Uropean Model*. And I think his Majesty is singularly happy in this, that no Body, no not the Author himself, dares to imagine that ever he entertain'd a distinct Interest from that of his People, which needed to be vail'd from his Council. And yet all thinking Men will grant me, that there may happen sometimes so nice Points in managing Affairs of State, especially *Alliances Abroad*, as require the closest Secrecy; and which the wisest and best Princes have lock'd within the Cabinet of a very few Breasts; lest too much Breath should soil their refined Texture. To be interested in *private Cabals*, is a Calumny far below the Character his Majesty stands possess'd of: And because He is not so open in his Counsels as some who have been before him, our Author fondly imagines, this closeness must not extend to all. It's enough for me to repeat, what his greatest Enemy was pleas'd to say of him; *Never Prince knew better how to lay a Design; when laid, to keep it secret; and when ready for Execution, to bring it about with intrepid Courage.*

Our Author's 2^d and 3^d insinuated Advices, of *preventing the long continuance of Parliaments*, which he afterwards explains by a *fair dismissal of the present, and calling of a new One*; and the *not corrupting Members of Parliament, by Pensions, Places, and Promises*; I know not whether to laugh at, or therein compassionate the Author. The *Calling, or Dissolving of Parliaments*, is ordinarily one of the most mysterious Problems of State, and one of the truest *Touchstones* of Skill in the Art of Government, upon it depending the greatest Consequences that can befall a Kingdom. And albeit those whom a profound Knowledge, and long Experience, have rendred consummate Statesmen, are many times at a stand what to advise in so intricate a Mystery; yet our Author pretends, with one single glance, to see through the Riddle, and boldly determines the Affair, without hearing what other Politicians have to urge against him. And this Decision in any other, would appear a pure effect of Enthusiasm.

That all the Members of Parliament should be declared *incapable of Places*, (for so much does our Author plainly insinuate, is a very severe and unjust Sentence against Men who are best capable to fill them, as being ordinarily the ablest Men of the Nation: And at the same rate, all the *Peers of England* should be excluded from serving their Country any where else but within the Parliament-House. That the Members of Parliament, should not be brib'd by Pensions or Promises, I agree with our Author, and in it we have both of us our Wishes; for I attest the Consciences of all the Members, if ever they were required by the King, or any from Him, to give one single Vote, much less impos'd on by Pensions or Promises so to do. And in saying this, I instance the removal of one of the most dangerous Grievances that attended the last two Reigns.

Our Author might have spared, among the rest, his following Advices about *the well-management of the Revenue, and the right conferring of Honours*: Since never Man suppos'd his Majesty apply'd his Money to any other use but that of the *Publick*: And besides, He has been pleas'd to cause to be laid before the Parliament the Accompts of it. The Honours He has conferr'd, have been few, and those so well plac'd, as if his Majesty had bestowed some Years in considering where he
could

could place them best. Neither becomes it any Subject to dare to intercept the Streams that flow from the Royal Fountain of Honour, or to stint the Bounty of a King that's best capable to judg where to bestow it.

As to the last Class of Advices with which he sums up his Pamphlet, viz. *The removal of bad Ministers, the Dissolution of this Parliament, and calling of another; execution of Justice on Delinquents, as he calls them; and the inspection into the Accounts of the Money given by the Parliament;* we have spoken to them all already.

There remains only one farther Advice, and that is, to use his own words, *A Review of Counsels and Proceedings, which has given such disturbance in Scotland, and a speedy Restitution of Matters there, to the true Constitution of that Kingdom.* I know some credulous People of this Nation, have been impos'd on by the Artifices of our Enemies, and the inconsiderate Zeal of some of our Friends, to believe that the Affairs in Scotland are in a far worse condition than they really are; and that some Members of Parliament there are disgusted. It's altogether foreign to my Design, to dip in this Affair at present, only I shall beg leave for this time to say, from my own knowledg and acquaintance with the most considerable Persons of that Kingdom, That there are, among all Ranks of People in Scotland, at this very Time, an unanimous and zealous Affection to his Majesty's Person and Interest; And that whatever may be the Mistakes between some few Members of the Scottish Parliament, and one or two Ministers of State, of which his Majesty was never acquainted till after he had employed them: There are just now a very promising prospect of removing these Differences by calm and easy Methods in the ensuing Parliament; And I have reason to affirm, and the Event will prove it, That his Majesty never intended to abridg the Scottish Parliament in their true Priviledges, but rather to add to them; and that by a Princely Condescension, He shall let the World see, how little he values the late so much talk'd of Prerogative of a Crown, when by laying aside any part of it, He can oblige a Nation that he knows loves him, and are ready to sacrifice their Lives and Fortunes for him.

POSTSCRIPT.

HIS Majesty's great and generous Reföve, of going in Person into *Ireland*, declared while these foregoing Sheets were at the Press, does more than take off all our Murmurings on the account of the supposed Mismanagement in that Kingdom, since those things of which we in our repining Fits dar'd to accuse others, his Majesty is graciously pleas'd to make up, by exposing his own Person for reducing that Kingdom, and for the Safety and Preservation of the Protestant Interest in *Europe*, which must certainly stand or fall with the Event of this Important Expedition.

F I N I S.

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